



## ***Farmland Conservation Easement Commission Minutes***

***Jefferson County Courthouse***

***311 S Center Ave, Rm 203***

***Jefferson, WI 53549***

***Monday, June 8, 2015 @ 12:30 pm***

**Members: Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), Steve Nass (Secretary), Mariah Hadler, and Blane Poulson.**

**1. Call to Order:**

The monthly meeting was called to order by Margaret Burlingham at 12:30 pm. Committee members Margaret Burlingham (Chair), Walt Christensen (Vice Chair), and Steve Nass (Secretary) were present. Also in attendance were Gerry Kokkonen, Land & Water Conservation Department (LWCD) and Kim Liakopoulos, LWCD. Mariah Hadler and Blane Poulson were absent.

**2. Roll Call (Establish a Quorum):**

A quorum was established.

**3. Certification of Compliance with the Open Meetings Law:**

It was determined that the committee was in compliance with the Open Meetings Law.

**4. Review of the June 08, 2015 Agenda:**

The June agenda was reviewed by the committee members. No changes were proposed.

**5. Public Comment:**

There were no comments at this time.

**6. Communications:**

There were no communications at this time.

**7. Review & Approval of the May Meeting Minutes:**

Steve Nass made a motion to approve the May 11, 2015 meeting minutes as written, Walt Christensen seconded. Motion carried 3/0.

**8. Discussion and possible action on PACE applications:**

**a. Greg Wilke, Town of Waterloo**

Margaret Burlingham told the committee that the easement is moving forward with a probable deadline of September 30, 2015. Gerry Kokkonen received a title commitment update to reflect the recent ownership change for the Wilke property from Fidelity Land Title and will forward to Caleb at NHLT.

**b. Cliff Haberman, Town of Milford**

Gerry Kokkonen and reps from NRCS met with Cliff Haberman. NRCS will work with Cliff Haberman on an EQUIP contract which will include a grazing management plan. Cliff Haberman is addressing all of the other concerns brought to his attention by NRCS and working with them to complete the environmental assessment red flags.

**c. Gary & Mary Ann Kunz Trust, Town of Sumner**

Nothing new at this time.

**d. Duane Koch, Town of Farmington**

Nothing new at this time.

**e. Timothy Hunn, Town of Aztalan**

Nothing new at this time.

**9. Discussion on the Landownership Changes, specifically the sale of Dale Neupert Parcel #030-0813-1733-002 to Kurt Skalitzky:**

Margaret Burlingham notified the committee that Blair Ward, Jefferson County Corporation Counsel is still working with NRCS to see how to should proceed.

**10. 90 Day Notice for any Easement Change Requests:**

Margaret Burlingham said that she was unable to find anything in past correspondences referencing a 90 day notice. Steve Nass commented that the commission should include wording within the easement language telling landowners that a 90 day notice is required before any changes are made.

**11. Discussion and Possible Action on Conservation Planning in regard to Farmland Easements:**

Gerry Kokkonen met with NRCS in regard to the Haberman easement. NRCS is completing the comprehensive conservation plan for this easement but we are unsure who will do this in the future. Margaret Burlingham is keeping in contact with NRCS in regard to planning.

**12. Jefferson County Land & Water Conservation Report on Baseline Documentation for Easements:**

Gerry Kokkonen will review the Wilke documents and wait to hear from Caleb in regard to the final easement language before making the baseline documents final.

**13. Potential Farmland Preservation Fee and Strengthening AEA's:**

Steve Nass spoke to Ben Wehmeier, Jefferson County Administrator and Jim Schroeder, Jefferson County Board Chairperson in regard to fees. Ben Wehmeier would like to have a meeting with Margaret Burlingham to discuss possible impact fees along with Blair Ward, Rob Klotz, director Planning & Zoning, and Mark Watkins, director of Land & Water Conservation. Margaret Burlingham will speak with Administration and set a meeting.

**14. Discussion on future events that the Farmland Conservation Easement Commission would like to participate in and Community Outreach:**

Hasel Farms Dairy Breakfast 6/19/15 - 6/21/15, October 2015 Lake Mills Fall Festival

**15. Future Meeting:**

July 13, 2015 at 12:30 pm in Room 203.

**16. Suggestions for the Next Agenda:**

Items # 8 - # 14

**17. Adjournment:**

Steve Nass made a motion to adjourn at 1:10 pm, Walt Christensen seconded. Motion carried 3/0.